

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended)): A method for electronic instant message conversation, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a second unidentified client, a first message to be published from a first client, the first message including a question related to a topic of interest, the first client having a first network address, the first message being directed through a pub/sub service, the second client being a subscriber to the service of the pub/sub service as being willing to receive questions related to the topic of interest and being anonymous to the first client and other subscribers of the pub/sub service and being unaddressed by the first client, said anonymous subscribers known only to said pub/sub service;

creating at the second client, a second message, the second message comprising the first message and the first network address, said first message in said second message providing context to said second message and including an answer to the question contained in said first message;

transmitting the second message by way of an instant message application from the second client to the first client;

retrieving additional information related to the second client; and

presenting the second message and the additional information at the first client;

said second client remaining anonymous to the first client and other subscribers after said transmission of said second messages to the first client.

2. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message is received at the second client from the first client by way of a publish/subscribe server.

3. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of subscribing, by any one of the first client or the second client, to a channel of a publish/subscribe server, said subscribing being authenticated and authorized by said publish/subscribe server anonymous to others of said second or first clients.
4. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1 wherein the additional information comprises any one of a first user name, first user title, first user telephone number, first user job responsibility or a first user secretary.
5. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 4 wherein any one of the first message or the second message is translated to any one of a telephone message, a video display, an audio message or a mechanical actuator.
6. (Currently amended): A method for identifying a message initiator in a system for instant message using a publish/subscribe server, the method comprising the steps of:
- obtaining at a first client, first user identifying information;
 - incorporating the first user identifying information in a message to be published, said message including a question related to a topic of interest;
 - transmitting the message to a pub/sub server;
 - publishing the message to subscribers of the pub/sub server as being willing to answer questions related to said topic of interest, said subscribers being anonymous to said first user and other subscribers and being authenticated and authorized by said pub/sub serve, said anonymous subscribers being known only to said pub/sub server;
 - providing the message comprising the first user information and said question related to the topic of interest to a second user subscriber who remains anonymous to said first user; and
 - transmitting a second message responsive to said published message and including an answer to the question in said first message from a second user subscriber directly to the first user, said second user subscriber remaining anonymous to said first user and other subscribers after the second message is transmitted to said first user.
7. (Original): The method according to claim 6 wherein the providing step comprises the further steps of:

acquiring second user information based on the first user identifying information in the message; and

providing the second user information to the subscriber.

8. (Original): The method according to claim 6 wherein the obtaining step comprises the further step of:

transforming user information from any one of instant message, text, audio, video or voice into the digital message.

9. (Original): The method according to claim 6 wherein the presenting step comprises the further step of:

transforming the message to any one of instant message, text, audio or video.

10. (Currently amended): A method for electronic instant message conversation, the method comprising the steps of:

creating at a first client, a first message to be published including a question related to a topic of interest, the first message comprising any one of additional information or a link to additional information, the additional information comprising any one of a user title, a user telephone number, a user value, a user job responsibility or information about a user's secretary;

transmitting the first message by way of an instant message application via a pub/sub service from the first client to a second client who has registered with the pub/sub service as being willing to answer questions related to said topic of interest, the second client being unaddressed by the first client and being a subscriber to the pub/sub service, said second client being known only to said pub/sub service and being anonymous to said first client and to other subscribers of said pub/sub service;

retrieving at the second client, the additional information and said question;

presenting the first message and the additional information and said question at the second client; and

transmitting a second message from the second client directly to the first client said second client remaining anonymous to the first client and other subscribers of said pub/sub

service after said second message is transmitted to said first client, said second message including an answer to the question included in said first message .

Claims 11-29 (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, comprising the further steps of:
associating the second client with a channel of a publish/subscribe server, said second client being authenticated and authorized by said publish/subscribe server;
the first client sending the first message to the channel of the publish/subscribe server;
determining network addresses of a plurality of subscribers associated with the channel, the plurality of subscribers associated with the channel comprising the second client; and
the publish/subscribe server publishing the first message to the determined plurality of subscribers.

31. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the additional information further consists of any one of a first user address, a first user value, a text file, a video file, an audio file or a network link (such as a URL).

32. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the transmitting step comprises the further steps of:
the first client associating the first message to be transmitted with a channel of the pub/sub server;
the pub/sub server determining network addresses of a plurality of subscribers associated with the channel, the plurality of subscribers associated with the channel comprising the second client; and
the pub/sub server receiving the first message from the first client;
wherein the publishing step comprises the further step of publishing the first message to the plurality of subscribers associated with the channel of the pub/sub server.

33. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the additional information further consists of any one of a text file, a video file, an audio file, a network link such as a URL, a telephone message or command information for actuating a mechanical device.